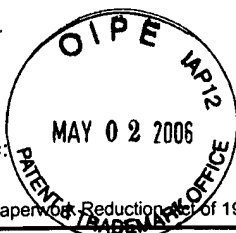


Doc Code:



PTO/SB/66 (10-05)

Approved for use through 05/31/2006. OMB 0651-0016

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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**PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF
MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))**

Docket Number (Optional)

8984-90623

Mail to: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Fax: (571) 273-8300

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

Patent No. 5,659,933 Application Number 08/625,236
Issue Date August 26, 1997 Filing Date April 1, 1996

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number (or reissue patent number, if a reissue) and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application (or reissue application) leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

Also complete the following information, if applicable

05/03/2006 CNGUYEN 00000009 5659933

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2790.00 00

The above-identified patent:

- ☐ is a reissue of original Patent No. _____, original issue date _____, original application number _____, original filing date _____.
- ☐ resulted from the entry into the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application _____ filed on _____.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and trademark Office on the date shown below.

April 25, 2006

Date


Signature

Erik B. Flom

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

[Page 1 of 3]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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1. SMALL ENTITY

☒ Patentee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

2. LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

☐ Patentee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g).

3. MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition, unless it was paid earlier.

NOT Small Entity				Small Entity			
Amount	Fee	(Code)		Amount	Fee	(Code)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	3 1/2 yr fee	(1551)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	3 1/2 yr fee	(2551)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	7 1/2 yr fee	(1552)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$ <u>1,150.00</u>	7 1/2 yr fee	(2552)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 1/2 yr fee	(1553)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____	11 1/2 yr fee	(2553)	

MAINTENANCE FEE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1,150.00

4. SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) of \$ 1,640.00 (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

SURCHARGE BEING SUBMITTED \$ 1,640.00

5. MANNER OF PAYMENT

☒ ~~Enclosed is a check~~ ^{are checks} for the sum of \$ 1,150.00 and \$1,640.00

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ the sum of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

6. AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ANY FEE DEFICIENCY

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any maintenance fee, surcharge or petition deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached.

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7. OVERPAYMENT

As to any overpayment made please

- OR ☒ Credit to Deposit Account No. 23-0920
- ☐ Send refund check.

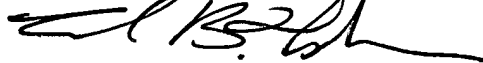
WARNING:

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

8. STATEMENT

The delay in payment of the maintenance fee to this patent was unintentional.

9. PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATED.



Signature(s) of Petitioner(s)

4/25/2006

Date

Erik B. Flom

Typed or printed name(s)

41,021

Registration Number, if applicable

(312) 655-1500

Telephone Number

Welsh & Katz, Ltd., 120 South Riverside Plaza, Floor 22, Chicago, IL 60606-3912

Address

Address

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the patentee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

ENCLOSURES:

- ☒ Maintenance Fee payment
- ☒ Surcharge under 37 CFR 1.20(i)(2) (fee for filing the maintenance fee petition)
- ☐